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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

National Intelligence Officers

NFAC-3408-79
27 June 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

THROUGH : Deputy Director for National Foreign Assessment
National Intelligence Officer for Warning

FROM : Acting National Intelligence Officer for Latin America

SUBJECT : Monthly Warning Assessment: Latin America

1. Action Requested: None; for your information only

Nicaragua:


2. The major uprising against President Somoza by the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN), anticipated in earlier warning assessments, is now reaching its climax. It appears almost inevitable that President Somoza will either be ousted or will voluntarily leave Nicaragua well within the 60 to 90 days covered by this assessment.


3. The FSLN has already proclaimed a provisional government in exile, which has been recognized by Panama and Grenada. It has massed a force of 1500 of its members in Costa Rica near the border with Nicaragua. Equipped with heavy weapons, this force is poised to take an enclave, including the town of Rivas, in southern Nicaragua. Here, or in another FSLN-controlled city, such as Leon, it reportedly plans to establish the seat of the provisional government. Cuba, Costa Rica, and perhaps Jamaica and Guyana are likely to recognize the provisional government promptly. The provisional government may then invite Cuban advisers in to Nicaragua to help consolidate its position and assist in pacifying the rest of the country. The provisional government is likely to be dominated by the Marxist majority in the five-member junta unless the junta is broadened to incorporate political moderates.

4. The National Guard will not be acceptable as an element in any viable government which may be formed to succeed Somoza because, in the perception of Nicaraguans, it is indelibly identified as Somoza's repressive force which killed thousands of Nicaraguan citizens to keep him in power.

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Central America:

5. Left-wing extremist organizations in Guatemala and El Salvador are likely to step up their terrorist activities to dissuade the military governments of those countries from sending military aid to Somoza. The security forces are likely to respond with a series of retaliatory acts which will keep the entire Central American region in ferment. 



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